



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,032	02/25/2004	Atsuji Sekiguchi	1506.1041	9052
21171	7590	08/30/2007	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP			NGUYEN, BRIAN D	
SUITE 700				
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20005			2616	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/30/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/785,032	SEKIGUCHI, ATSUJI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian D. Nguyen	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/25/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Claim 1, line 10, it is suggested to replace "packets" with --packet--.
 - Claim 2, line 2, it is suggested to replace "may be" with --is--.
 - Claim 4, line 8, it is suggested to replace "packets" with --packet--.
 - Claim 6, line 9, it is suggested to replace "packets" with --packet--.
 - Claim 8, line 2, it is suggested to insert --, when executed by a processor,--. In line 11, replace "packets" with --packet--.
 - Claim 9, line 2, it is suggested to insert --, when executed by a processor,--.
 - Claim 11, line 24, it is suggested to replace "packets" with --packet--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2616

4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the packets" in line 3 and "the discarded packets" in line 7.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the application layer" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the hop number" and "the possible hop numbers" in line 4 and "the respective hop numbers" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the packets" in line 3 and "the discarded packets" in line 6.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the hop number" and "the possible hop numbers" in line 4 and "the respective hop numbers" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the packets" in line 2 and "the discarded packets" in line 6.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the hop number" and "the possible hop numbers" in line 3 and "the respective hop numbers" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the packets" in line 4 and "the discarded packets" in line 8.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Art Unit: 2616

Claim 9 recites the limitation "the hop number" and "the possible hop numbers" in line 5 and "the respective hop numbers" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "the hop number" and "the possible hop numbers" in line 6; "the respective hop numbers" in line 11; and "the discarded packets" in line 22. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-3 are directed to software per se, which lacks a tangible embodiment.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 4-10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph and the objection(s), set forth in this Office action.

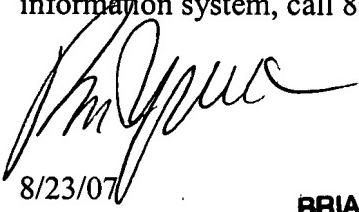
Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3084. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00 Monday-Thursday.

Art Unit: 2616

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Firmin Backer can be reached on (571) 272-6703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



8/23/07

**BRIAN NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**